



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

Bebe Moore Campbell

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month – July 2023

WHEREAS, Bebe Moore Campbell was an accomplished African American author and journalist, advocate, co-founder of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Urban Los Angeles and national spokesperson for mental health education and support among individuals with mental illness and their families; and

WHEREAS, she was recognized for her tireless advocacy and for bringing awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities with the release of her New York Times bestselling novel, “72 Hour Hold,” and her children's book “Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry;” and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives designated July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in her honor to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, or gender, however, a person’s culture and identity can make access to mental health treatment much more difficult; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association, approximately two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the month of July is a time to amplify NAMI’s message “Culture, Community, & Connection” and to use this time to bring our voices together to advocate for mental health and access to care.

THEREFORE, I, TALISHA SEARCY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, proclaim July 2023 as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and recognize her dedication and commitment to influence communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access treatment and services, and improved community outreach and support for our family and community members.

Dated this 12th day of July, 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor